

Boozhoo,

My name is Katrina Leoso and I grew up here in Round Lake with my siblings and my mother Marlene Merrill. I've been blessed with an amazing mother who instilled a lot of my core values. She encouraged me to attend college and to be an individual that I could be proud of. She told me good leaders are molded through life experiences, continued study, and being able to adapt. I would like to share this sentiment and give back to my tribe.

If given the opportunity to have a tribal council seat I would like to be the voice of the people. Everything starts with the people and I would like to bring their ideas, suggestions, and concerns to the Tribal Council Table and any other platform that could help us. It's time to unite all the communities and make positive changes that will affect generations to come. Honor our elders and protect our youth.

We need to stop nepotism and give everyone a fair chance to prosper. Encourage our youth to get an education or learn a trade to bring back to our tribe. Let's put all our people who want to work to work. Give them the tools and training to be able to help themselves and their families.

Starting with our youth, we educate them about drug and alcohol abuse at a young age so it becomes branded into our minds that there's a better way of life. Use our traditional values and teachings to help heal our sick and grieving families. We need to fight back against the growing drug problem and start saving our people. Introduce different programs and activities to keep our youth learning and too busy to fall into the cycle of drugs and alcohol.

Also, I'd like to see us expand and grow our tribal businesses. Put qualified people in positions to help us flourish. Encourage our entrepreneurs and small business owners to build and hire from within the tribe. Be able to provide additional opportunities for our tribal members.

I can't say anything is set in stone because it takes all of tribal council, but I promise to be present, accountable, and approachable. I'm willing to show up, step up, and speak up for all of the St Croix tribal members. We need integrity, open communication, and fairness to help us band together. We need someone empathic to all our needs and struggles. I am asking for your support June 10th. Let's find a way to take St Croix to another level and let everyone be heard.

Miigwech,
Katrina Leoso